approaching your Metrix® COVID-19 Test with ***aptitude****

*like definitionally

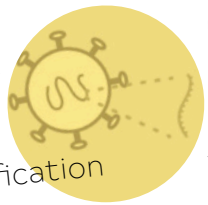
HOT TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE TESTING based on ***personal*** and ***community*** experience

by babs

WHAT IS IT?

Metrix® COVID-19 Test (metrix) is, as of writing (feb 2026), the closest thing to a PCR test you can get at home. it is a single-use molecular test that can detect the nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes covid-19), a[n] NAAT.

N ucleic
A cid
A mplification
T est



tests like these are much better than rapid tests (RATs) when determining if one's actually infected. metrix can be faster, more convenient, and less risky air-wise than going to a lab for a PCR test—and, depending on insurance—they're likely cheaper too.

all that said, it's still sucks (at best) when they don't work, so here are a few tips to avoid errors and invalid readings, and hopefully get you sailin smoothly towards negative (that is, non-viral) waters....

FIRST

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS !!!

nothing i tell you after will matter if you do not do this!!! all of these tips assume you are following the written instructions! you may say "i fear this one is obvious" but fear not—o'er these many pandemic years we have come to find that official instructions (on, say, RATs) may not always yield best results—not so for metrix.

NEXT

USE THE NATIVE CHARGING BLOCK & CORD, & PLUG IT INTO THE WALL.

sometimes you're like hey i have this other usb cord and i can't find the one it came with and it's fine but this may not be one of those cases. same goes for plugging it into the wall instead of an extension cord or power strip. maybe fine maybe not. we're not chancing it.

SWAB

NO BOOGIES, NO BLOOD

chunks of boogers or blood can throw off the test, so blow your nose first, and if you're prone to bleeding, maybe stick a test swab (like a regular cotton swab) up there to check first just so you don't waste your sterile swab. better to wait for a sample that will run smoothly.

TAP THAT

AFTER SHAKING COLLECTOR HARD FOR 20 SECONDS, TAP OUT EXTRA BUBBLES IN BLUE LIQUID

this one lowkey feels the most superstitious of all the tips but like is it really gonna hurt if you try to pop some of the bubbles before you put the sensor on?

PAY ATTENTION

SO YOU CAN ADDRESS & AVERT ERRORS ASAP

metrix is unique in that you can troubleshoot in the first 5 minutes if, say, pieces aren't tight enough together or pushed all the way in. don't get distracted & squander your precious second chance!

GOOD LUCK! ✤

UNFORTUNATELY, STILL NO ACCOUNTING FOR IT

at the end of the day, sometimes hardware fails and even the best laid tests error out. as of writing, aptitude supposedly still will replace tests if you have photos of the light pattern on the reader, and the label on the test box with the lot number, expiration date, etc—send em an email!